

CRP: Planting for the Future

Co-sponsors:

USDA Farm Service Agency and DOI United States Geological Survey

The expiration of over 16 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program contracts in 2007 and over 6 million acres in 2008 is fast approaching. A conference, "CRP: Planting for the Future," is scheduled for June 6-9, in Fort Collins, Colorado. Science-based CRP analysis will be used to inform producers, legislators, budget overseers, and other decision-makers on how best to manage CRP, minimize taxpayer costs and maximize agricultural and environmental benefits.

Overall Conference Goal

Provide a scientific forum to exchange ideas, discuss issues, and help define the future of CRP.

Conference Objectives

- ❶ Assess economic and environmental impacts of CRP.
- ❷ Describe CRP's policy and political setting.
- ❸ Identify lessons learned from CRP implementation that can be applied to increase program effectiveness and efficiency.
- ❹ Contribute to solving the problem of quantifying program outcomes.
- ❺ Define knowledge gaps needing to be addressed to fully assess program costs and benefits.
- ❻ Outline research required of the scientific community to better understand the implications of CRP management options.
- ❼ Produce and distribute conference proceedings to inform and enlighten the policy and legislative process.